Increase in production cost of fertilizers

†2094. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the production cost of chemical fertilizers has increased during a period of last three years, from March, 1998 till the end of December, 2001, due to rise in the price of coal, gas and naphtha;

(b) if so, to what extent the cost of chemical fertilizers has increased and when; and

(c) the extent of increase in the production cost of each of the chemical fertilizers produced in the country from March, 1998 to December, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that the production cost of urea, which is the only fertilizer at present under statutory price, distribution and movement control, has increased during the period of last three years due to rise in the prices of coal, gas, naphtha and other inputs. The increase in the production cost of urea fertilizer as per Retention price-cum-Subsidy Scheme (RPS) since 1998 is given as under:

(Rs. per MT)

Year / Period	Cost of production considered in Retention Price (including 12% post tax return)	Weighted average increase
1.4.1998	6823	—
1.4.1999	6899	76
1.4.2000	7960	1061
1.4.2001 onwards	8196	236

New Pharmaceutical Policy

2095. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) Whether Government have finalised the new Pharmaceutical Policy, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the new policy aims at a shift from the Controlled to the monitoring regime; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken to make available quality and life-saving drugs at affordable prices; and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government have recently announced the "Pharmaceutical Policy-2002". The main objectives of this policy are, *inter-alia*, ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production. The policy provides for identifying the drugs for price regulation out of the basket of the items appearing in the national Essential Drugs List and those considered important from the point of view of their use in various Health Programmes, in emergency care etc. There would be monitoring of price movement in other cases.

Self-sufficiency in fertilizers

2096. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 191, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 2002 and state:

(a) what steps have been taken in the new consumption norms for fertilizer industry, to minimize reliance on imported fertilizers; and

(b) whether these new norms are expected to move towards self-sufficiency in fertilizers and boost their exports; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The revision of consumption norms on interim basis w.e.f. 1.4.2000 was done in order to fix the consumption norms at the realistic levels, based on the actual levels achieved in 1999-2000, or the existing level, whichever is lower. Government does not expect any significant fall in production of urea on account of interim revision